

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



Interpretation Number: 12-01

Date: 01-12

Pamphlet Number: NFPA 101, 2000 ed.

Section(s): 18/19.3.2.6, 9.6.1.3, 18/19.3.5

Comments:

Applies to new and existing health care occupancies, including assisted living facilities classified as Limited Care Facilities.

Question: Are microwave ovens permitted in patient sleeping rooms of health care occupancies?

Response: Yes, as specified below.

The use of microwave ovens by patients classified as not responsible is prohibited. To verify patient responsibility, the owner shall conduct a written evaluation of each patient having a microwave oven in their sleeping room. The evaluation shall assess the capabilities of patients due to accidents, temporary illness, cyclical variations in capabilities, mobility impairment, and their ability to wake in response to fire alarm signals not less than annually, and for residents with geriatric problems or degenerative diseases, not less than every 6 months. Documentation of the evaluation for each patient having a microwave oven in their sleeping room must be kept on site and available for review by the State Fire Marshal's Office to verify patient responsibility.

In addition to the evaluation above, all of the following requirements shall be met:

1. The building shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system.
2. Listed quick response or listed residential sprinklers shall be provided throughout all smoke compartments containing patient sleeping rooms.
3. Each patient sleeping room where a microwave oven is used shall be protected by smoke detection connected to the building fire alarm system.

Electric heat-producing appliances can be a fire hazard when left unattended, or when not used properly. Electric heat-producing appliances such as toasters, coffee makers, toaster ovens, pizza ovens, and mug warmers are prohibited in resident sleeping rooms.

Signature:

Date: 1/20/12

Title: John E. Falgione, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal